

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant Salie died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TRUCK EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATION

#### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fine organization in my congressional district, the National Truck Equipment Association, NTEA, which is the leading association supporting the commercial truck and transportation equipment industry.

Established in 1964, the NTEA supports the \$86 billion commercial truck and transportation equipment industry. The Association currently represents nearly 1,600 companies that manufacture, distribute, install, sell and repair commercial trucks, truck bodies, truck equipment, trailers and accessories.

The multi-service work trucks produced by NTEA member companies are vitally important to our Nation's economic system and our day-to-day living. Almost all delivery, utility, repair, maintenance, disposal/recycling and emergency services, as well as the construction and agricultural industries, utilize commercial vehicles. These versatile vehicles enable us to deliver goods, construct and repair roads, homes and buildings, transport people, provide emergency fire, medical and rescue services, install and repair utilities, collect trash for disposal and recycling, control snow and ice, and operate farms, among many other services.

At the heart of today's commercial truck and transportation equipment industry are an estimated 4,000 small businesses, many of them family-owned, about 2,000 of which operate as distributorships. In aggregate, the work truck and equipment industry has annual sales of more than \$90 billion and employs more than 75,000 people.

This week, NTEA will host its 41st Annual National Truck Equipment Association Convention and Work Truck Show, one of the largest trade events in the United States. The show, which represents the largest gathering of work trucks and equipment in North America, will bring together manufacturers, distributors, fleet managers, leasing companies, dealers, buyers and users of work trucks in all industries in an environment designed to deliver the newest products, encourage peer interaction and enhance professional development.

In honor of this 41st Annual Convention, I want to commend NTEA and its member companies for their significant contributions to the country. I look forward to working together with NTEA to build upon its achievements to make the association even stronger for the future.

HONORING BERKELEY VICE  
MAYOR MAUDELLÉ SHIREK

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary woman and one of my political heroes, Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek. In the nearly four decades Maudelle has spent as an activist, community leader, and elected official in the East Bay, she has exemplified not only what it means to be a true public servant, but through her efforts as a leader and a mentor has inspired countless members of younger generations to become involved in politics and to actively work for positive change within their communities and beyond.

A granddaughter of slaves, Maudelle came to the Bay Area over 60 years ago from Jefferson, Arkansas. Before long she became an activist for fair housing and civil rights for African Americans as well as other disenfranchised populations. She later went on to become an office manager and labor organizer at the Co-Op Credit Union, helping many people get loans to buy their first homes, pay for education or start small businesses, making it possible for many families and individuals in the 9th District to achieve financial stability.

Following her service at the Credit Union, Maudelle went on to found two senior centers. When she worked for the City of Berkeley as Director of the West Berkeley Senior Center, she simultaneously served on the State Executive Board of Service Employees International Union, Local 535, and initiated the first municipal Labor Commission in California. She also founded the New Light Senior Center in 1976, which she still actively oversees. Active in politics throughout this time, she mentored and encouraged others to become active as well. She convinced me, as well as my predecessor in the 9th District, Congressman Ronald Dellums, that to become truly effective in the fight for lasting change, we must become active and directly engaged in politics in our communities.

After decades of service to her community, Maudelle herself became a candidate for public office, and was elected to the Berkeley City Council in District 3 in 1984. Maudelle was the first Berkeley City Councilmember, and one of the first elected officials in the state, to take action against the AIDS pandemic by spearheading efforts to provide educational materials, needle-exchange programs, and housing for AIDS patients. When the county hospital tried to close its facilities serving AIDS patients, she chained herself to the doors to call attention to the plight of AIDS victims. As a result of her efforts, that facility remains open today. Throughout her tenure on the City Council, her dedication to her constituents and commitment to bettering the lives of those in her community earned her the unwavering support of residents within her district, and resulted in seven reelections as well as her election as the Vice Mayor of Berkeley.

Maudelle recently completed her eighth and final term on the Berkeley City Council, but her devotion to her community remains steadfast. At the New Light Senior Center, she continues to work to promote healthy eating hab-

its and lifestyles for all residents, and still does all the shopping for lunches at the Center every Tuesday. She continues to be a role model and a tireless worker for civil and human rights, peace, and justice and persists in the fight to reorder our national priorities. She is a mentor, a friend, and a woman who I look to for advice and care.

On Saturday, February 26, 2005, Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek will be honored in Berkeley, California for her extraordinary life and accomplishments. Though we recognize and honor the truly incomparable contributions Maudelle has made to our community, we have barely begun to realize the true profundity of her social and political legacy. Maudelle's uncompromising fidelity to her ideals and compassion for people will never cease to be a source of hope, purpose, and conviction for those seeking to continue her work for peace, equality, and justice. Maudelle's vision for a better and more peaceful world is one that transcends time and place, and the lasting effects of the work inspired by that vision will shape the lives of countless individuals for generations to come. On this very special day, I salute, congratulate, and thank Maudelle Shirek for what she has given her community, our country, and the entire world.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANNIE SELLERS AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of our community's most outstanding citizens and my dear friend, Annie Sellers. Since she came to New Haven in 1958, Annie has been an active member of the community—especially with our senior citizens.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of those who volunteer their time and energies to make a difference. Advocate, champion, and friend—Annie has always been there to assist those in need. I have been fortunate enough to know Annie for many years and have always been proud to work with her. Her friendship, to both myself and my mother, has meant more to us than words could ever express.

As the founder and director of the Farnum Senior Center, Annie's contributions to the New Haven community have been invaluable. Our seniors face so many challenges which is why organizations like the Farnum Senior Center are so important. Annie recognized this need within her own community and created a place where the seniors of Farnum Courts could gather together—a place where they could discuss issues of importance to them, receive information on the programs and services that are available to them, and where they would always find an advocate ready to meet their needs. It is because of people like Annie—true leaders—that the voices of our seniors never go unheard.

In addition to her work within the Farnum Courts community, Annie has also been an